



State of Rhode Island
Division of Public
Utilities & Carriers

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Date: January 9, 2019

To: Luly Massaro
Commission Clerk

From: Patricia Smith *P. S.*
Rate Analyst

Subject: Docket 4904, Narragansett Bay Commission's Tariff Advice Filing to Change Credit Card Fees

On November 20, 2018, the Narragansett Bay Commission ("NBC") submitted a tariff advice filing proposing to change its credit card fees. NBC requested an effective date of January 21, 2019, to coincide with the implementation of a new Customer Service software application. According to the filing, when the new Customer Service application is implemented, NBC will be working with a new payment processing vendor that is fully integrated with the new system. The proposed tariff reflects the fee structure of the new vendor.

NBC customers that presently choose to pay with a credit card incur a transaction fee of 1.75% rounded to the nearest \$0.50, plus a fixed fee of \$1.00. The new fee will be a flat \$2.95 per transaction with a maximum credit card payment allowed of \$400 per transaction. Under both the current and proposed tariff, the credit card fees are a direct pass through of costs from the payment processor without any additional add-on charges from NBC.

Customers currently have and will continue to have no fee options of paying their bill, including: paying by check, automatic account payments, and online via the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network. The Division believes NBC's proposal is reasonable because it continues to ensure that only customers that elect to pay with a credit card pay the vendor fees. Based on our review, the Division recommends approval of NBC's Tariff Advice submittal as filed.